

APR 09 2004

GROUP 2000

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S. r. No. 09/364,794

202. (previously presented) A process as in Claim 192 further comprising disposing in at least one receptor a sensor for detection of presence of ice in said ice dispenser, and generating a signal from said sensor when a quantity of ice in said receptor falls below a predetermined minimum, said signal being responded to by operation of said vacuum pump to draw ice from said source and transport said ice through said conduit to said receptor to replenish the quantity of ice to an amount greater than the predetermined minimum.

203. (previously presented) A process as in Claim 192 wherein ice pieces delivered from said source of ice to said initial conduit are received at said receptor in at least partially bridged condition, and further comprising unbridging said ice pieces prior to delivering said ice pieces into said initial ice conduit.

204. (previously presented) A process as in Claim 192 wherein said receptor comprises an ice dispensing device, an accumulator or an air lock device.

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